



## News

### JEAN Team makes large marijuana bust

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#### About 644 pounds recovered

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A cooperative investigation into a marijuana distribution operation netted two arrests on Saturday, along with the seizure of about 644 pounds of marijuana valued at \$644,000.

JEAN Team detectives were originally contacted Friday by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Indiana State Police in reference to an ongoing interstate drug-smuggling investigation, according to a press release from the JEAN Team Drug Task Force in Grant County.



Big haul — Blocks of marijuana weighing nearly 650 pounds sit on tables after being seized by JEAN Team members Saturday morning in Grant County. Elaine Moore / [emoore@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:emoore@chronicle-tribune.com)

Investigators learned that the truck suspected of having the marijuana, which had been rented in Kokomo, was parked in a warehouse in the 500 block of West 10th Street in Marion.

The press release said investigators tailed and stopped the rental truck at about 10 a.m. Saturday on Grant County Road 900 South, about one-half mile south of Ind. 18.

With assistance from an area warehouse, investigators unloaded two large wooden skids from the truck, each of which contained a large plastic tote weighing about 1,200 pounds.

Inside each skid was a layer of paint and a layer of cement. Underneath those layers, investigators located several heat-shrunk, plastic-wrap packages, each of which contained between two and seven pounds of marijuana, according to the press release.

The drugs had originally been shipped from Texas and were labeled as cooking oil, the press release said.

Two people were arrested as part of the investigation. Justin Brodhead, 19, last known address 808 Buckskin Ct., Kokomo, and Michael Mabrouk, 18, last known address 5008 Council Ring Blvd., Kokomo, were each charged with possession of marijuana over 10 pounds, a class C felony.

Both Brodhead and Mabrouk were being held Sunday at the Grant County Jail on \$20,005 bond each.

The DEA, the Indiana State Police, the Grant County Prosecutor's Office, the Marion Police Department and the Grant County Sheriff's Department assisted one another in this investigation, according to the press release.

JEAN Team Detective Sgt. Mark Stefanatos the effort was possible only through the full cooperation of all law enforcement agencies as well as a local church and a local business.

"To take that much weight off the streets was a win for everybody," Stefanatos said. "It was a good,

cooperative effort."

Marion Police Department Chief David Gilbert said the size of the seizure was quite large but that the effort shown by the JEAN Team on this case was typical.

"The amount of drugs seized was extraordinary in this case," he said. "On behalf of the department as a whole, I'm very pleased with the work of the JEAN Team. It's another fantastic example of the work that can be done when there's cooperation and a sense of community. I feel like people are safer for the effort."

Sheriff Darrell Himelick of the Grant County Sheriff's Department agreed.

"It shows an awfully good effort by the JEAN Team and all the agencies to take this down," he said. "I'm just glad we got it stopped before it hit the streets. It's an awful lot of trouble when that much marijuana hits the streets."

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